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www.thetrevorproject.org

July 18, 2013

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Abbe Land
Executive Director & CEO

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
1131 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Danny Davis
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act

Dear Representatives Cassidy and Davis,

The Trevor Project would like to thank you for your leadership and express its strong support for the reauthorization of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. As you know, this critical legislation would preserve the only dedicated stream of federal suicide prevention funding, which is currently supporting suicide prevention efforts in 40 states, 38 tribes, and 85 colleges.

The Trevor Project is the leading nonprofit, national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 24. The Trevor Project saves young lives through its accredited free and confidential lifeline, secure instant messaging services which provide live help and intervention, a social networking community for LGBTQ youth, in-school workshops, educational materials, online resources, and advocacy. The Trevor Project is a leader and innovator in suicide prevention.

Following its passage in 2004, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GLSMA) created a suicide prevention grant program to allow states and colleges to engage in prevention efforts, and it allocated funding for the national Suicide Prevention Resource Center. When the measure expired in 2008, Congress continued to recognize the importance of youth suicide prevention by funding Garrett Lee Smith programs.

Specifically, GLSMA funds have been supporting the following efforts for nearly a decade now, all of which work in tandem to save young lives:

- The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
- Youth Suicide and Prevention Strategy Grants to States and Tribes
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services and Outreach on Campus

Suicide prevention is a particularly important issue for LGBTQ youth communities. As you may be aware, suicide is currently the 2nd leading cause of death among youth ages 10 through 24, and LGBTQ youth are at 3-4 times higher risk of suicidality.

Suicide prevention programs for young people are a life-saving and effective means to address the daunting issue of youth suicide. The programs funded by the Garrett Lee Smith Act Reauthorization of 2013 will help us avoid tragedy by appropriately funding programs that focus on extreme harming behaviors and mental illness in young people.

Reauthorization will ensure that states, tribes, and colleges continue to be able to provide life-saving, cost-effective, evidence-based suicide prevention programs for young people.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this crucial piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to have your staff reach contact us if The Trevor Project can support your efforts in any way. Our Government Affairs Director, Alison Gill, can be reached at Alison.Gill@thetrevorproject.org or by phone at 202-204-4730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abbe Land', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Abbe Land
Executive Director & CEO

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